

Serial No. **10/804,235**

Docket No. **K-0625**

Amdt. dated May 16, 2007

Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully submitted.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Uszkureit et al. (hereinafter “Uszkureit”), U.S. Patent No. 6,463,767. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that each lift has a predetermined width, thickness, and length and an overall curved configuration along the length thereof, wherein the width and thickness is substantially constant along the length thereof, and a radius of curvature of the lift decreases as the lift extends toward a back of the drum connected with a rotational shaft, and lines connecting both ends of the lifts are parallel to the rotational shaft. Uszkureit does not disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

That is, Uszkureit disclose a washing machine with a drum 5 having three paddles 12 uniformly distributed on an inner casing of the drum 5. However, the paddles 12 do not have a width and thickness substantially constant along the length thereof; rather, the width and thickness of the paddles 12 vary along the length thereof, as shown in Figures 1-3 of Uszkureit.

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Further, a radius of curvature of the paddles 12 increases as the paddles 12 extend toward the rear wall 19 of the drum 5 connected to the rotational shaft. Furthermore, lines connecting both ends of the paddles 12 are not parallel to the rotational shaft.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Uszkureit should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 2 is allowable over Uszkureit at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Neusser, EP 1350880. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neusser also fails to disclose all of the claimed features of independent claim 1, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1. That is, Neusser fails to disclose or suggest each lift having a width and thickness substantially constant along the length thereof and wherein a radius of curvature of the length decreases as the lift extends toward a back of the drum connected with a rotational shaft, and lines connecting both ends of the lifts are parallel to the rotational shaft. Rather, Neusser discloses a drive element 3 whose width and thickness vary along the length thereof and a radius of curvature that varies along the length thereof, as shown in Figures 3-4 of Neusser. Additionally, a line connecting both ends of the drum element 3 is not parallel to the rotational shaft.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Neusser should be withdrawn. Dependent claim 2 is allowable over Neusser at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Delaporte Arnal, FR1580849. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Delaporte Arnal also fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of independent claim 1, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1. That is, Delaporte Arnal fails to disclose or suggest each lift having an overall curved configuration along the length thereof, as well as a lift wherein a radius of curvature of the lift decreases as the lift extends toward a back of the drum connected with a rotational shaft, and lines connecting both ends of the lifts are parallel to the rotational shaft. As shown in Fig. 2 of Delaporte Arnal, elements 2, 3 extend straight and diagonally from a front edge to a rear edge of element 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Delaporte Arnal should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-6 are allowable over Delaporte Arnal at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tricot, FR 1136981. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Tricot also fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed features of independent claim 1, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1. That is, Tricot fails to disclose a lift wherein a radius of curvature of the lift decreases as the lift extends toward a back of the drum connected with a rotational shaft, and lines connecting both ends of the lifts are parallel to the rotational shaft. See Fig. 3 of Tricot, element 23.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Tricot should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-6 are allowable over Tricot at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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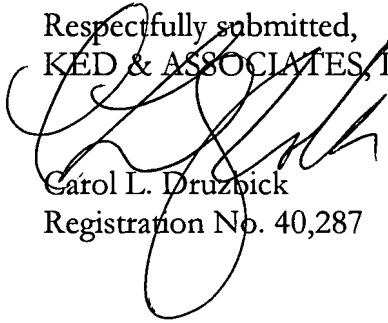
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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